CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 3. (canceled)

4. (new) A veneer-slicing machine comprising:

a frame;

a log beam extending along and rotatable on the frame about an axis and having a generally planar and longitudinally extending support face;

means for securing an elongated flitch to the support face;

a blade on the frame having a cutting edge extending substantially parallel to the axis and displaceable on the frame transversely of the axis, whereby, when the log beam is rotated to orbit the flitch about the axis and the blade is displaced into the orbit of the flitch, the blade slices veneer from the flitch;

means on the beam for, when the securing means has released the flitch, knocking the flitch off the face; and

means adjacent the beam for transporting away a flitch knocked off the face.

5. (new) The veneer-slicing machine defined in claim 4 wherein the means for knocking off the flitch includes at least one element displaceable on the beam between a retracted position

recessed in the beam behind the face thereof and an extended position projecting outward through and past the face thereof.

6. (new) The veneer-slicing machine defined in claim 5 wherein the beam is formed on the face with a throughgoing hole and the element is shiftable through the hole.

7. (new) The veneer-slicing machine defined in claim 6 wherein the element is displaceable substantially perpendicular to the face.

8. (new) The veneer-slicing machine defined in claim 7 wherein the beam is formed with a plurality of the holes spaced along the axis and the knockoff means includes respective such elements displaceable through the holes.

9. (new) The veneer-slicing machine defined in claim 4 wherein the transport means includes at least two chains extending crosswise of the axis and drive means for transversely displacing the chains.

10. (new) The veneer-slicing machine defined in claim 9 wherein the chains are underneath the beam on the frame.

11. (new) The veneer-slicing machine defined in claim 10 wherein the chains have upper stretches recessed in the frame and provided with entrainment elements projecting upward past the frame.